

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2201

August 22, 2002

The Honorable Asa Hutchinson, Director
Drug Enforcement Administration
600-700 Army Navy Drive
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Asa:

I write to express my urgent concerns about a meeting or meetings being convened by the Special Agent in Charge in Detroit, Michael A. Braun. I am concerned these meetings may run afoul of federal laws prohibiting unauthorized lobbying activities by federal agencies.

I am in receipt of a letter, dated August 2, 2002, in which Mr. Braun extends an invitation to a forum "to discuss drug legalization efforts that are being proposed throughout the United States, specifically in Michigan" and lists one of the purposes of the meeting as having "state leaders..possible combine resources in combating drug legalization proposals." It also notes that present for this meeting will be "Sue Rusche," who will "examine and provide insight on successful strategies to combat legalization." The meeting is scheduled on August 26th in the Drug Enforcement Agency's Detroit office.

As you are probably aware, Public Law 107-77 (November 28, 2001), which provided appropriations for the Drug Enforcement Agency, contains the following general prohibition in section 601: "[n]o part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall be used for publicity or propaganda purposes *not authorized by the Congress.*" I am concerned that this meeting, with its specific purpose of devising a lobbying and public campaign against Michigan drug reform proposals, is such an unauthorized use of funds.

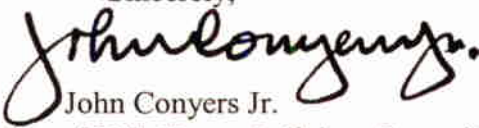
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I request that you promptly investigate this matter and advise me of your conclusions. If you find that I am correct in my analysis, I would appreciate your advising Special Agent Braun of these regulations.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request.

Sincerely,

John Conyers Jr.
Ranking Member of U.S. House Judiciary Committee

cc: F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr., Chairman
Special Agent in Charge Michael Braun



U. S. Department of Justice
Drug Enforcement Administration
Rick Finley Building
431 Howard Street
Detroit, MI 48226
313-234-4000

AUG 02 2002

James Halushka, Deputy Prosecutor
Office of the Prosecuting Attorney
County of Oakland
1200 N. Telegraph
Pontiac, MI 48341

Dear Mr. Halushka:

On August 26th, 2002, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) will host a forum at our Detroit office to discuss the drug legalization efforts that are being proposed throughout the United States, specifically in Michigan. The Detroit Field Division of the DEA encompasses Michigan, Ohio and Kentucky. As the Special Agent in Charge of the Detroit Field Division, I feel that it is incumbent upon the DEA to assemble leaders from these states, and for the DEA to take a leading role in providing education and training in this area. One of the important goals of this meeting is to have state leaders such as you, share their ideas and strategies, and possibly combine resources in combating drug legalization proposals.

Please accept my invitation to join state leaders from Michigan, Kentucky and Ohio at this forum. Sue Rusche, co-founder and executive director of National Families in Action, and a nationally recognized expert on the history of the drug legalization effort in the United States, will provide a presentation. The presentation will examine this issue and provide insight on successful strategies to combat legalization. Additionally, DEA's Demand Reduction and Congressional and Public Affairs Sections will provide presentations on how the DEA can assist state leaders in this battle. I feel that your participation in this event will be valuable to everyone involved.

I welcome any suggestions you have that could make this day most productive. Please feel free to contact me at (313) 234-4001 or Special Agent Rich Isaacson at (313) 234-4310 with any comments or questions.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Braun
Special Agent in Charge